AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph spanning page 3, lines 15-35 as follows:

The invention is characterized by the following steps:

- providing olivine particles with a particle size preferably below 1 mm in diameter,
- preferably adding of water to form a water slurry,
- mixing with hydrochloric acid (HCl), preferably at a concentration above 18 wt% and at a temperature preferably between 50 – 130 °C, for a period of time, preferably between 20 – 360 minutes,
- removal of coarse mineral impurities,~~impurities~~
- separation of precipitated silica from mother solution,~~solution~~
- mechanical treatment of the silica to obtain a slurry,~~slurry~~
- preparation of a low viscosity slurry by further adding to the silica sodium aluminate or another suitable aluminate and optionally some acid and water, preferably so that the concentration of Al in the silica is 100 – 6000 p.p.m.,
- ageing the silica at a temperature between 50 – 100 °C according to product requirements,~~requirements~~
- dispersion of silica ~~slurry~~slurry,
- removal of fine mineral impurities, and
- drying of the ~~silica~~silica.

~~as defined in the accompanying, independent claim 1.~~

Please amend the paragraph spanning page 3, line 36 to page 4, line 4 as follows:

The invention is further characterized by a silica product including in addition to silica (SiO_2); ~~0,005~~ 0.005 – ~~0,7~~0.7 wt% Na, ~~0,0035~~0.0035 – ~~0,35~~0.35 wt% Al, ~~0,02~~0.02 – ~~0,05~~0.05 wt% Mg, ~~0,002~~0.002 – ~~0,006~~0.006 wt% Ca, ~~0,001~~ 0.001 – ~~0,2~~0.2 wt% S, ~~0,007~~0.007 – ~~0,06~~0.06 wt% Fe, up to ~~0,01~~0.01 wt% Cl, 1 – 10 wt%~~i~~ H_2O, and with a pH between 4 – 9~~, as defined in the independent claim 19~~.

~~Claims 2 – 17 and 19 – 21 define preferred embodiments of the invention, whereas claims 22 – 24 define applications of the silica product.~~